



First Sunday in Advent

Hope

One: As we enter the season of Advent, we remember God's call to seek justice in the world God loves.

All: We come longing for a brighter future for all.

One: We light the first candle of Advent, a symbol of God's hope, which shines in the darkness.

(Light the candle of hope)

One: May the light of this candle ignite a fire within your people, who are often afraid or hesitant to work for change.

All: Holy One, strengthen us by your Spirit to commit ourselves to walking with those who are oppressed and marginalized. May our actions reflect your hope, which transforms your world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Zinenani Finds Hope in Malawi

In Malawi, 15-year-old Zinenani took on the responsibility of caring for her younger siblings after their mother's death and their father leaving to find work in Mozambique.



Zinenani became the caretaker of their household. She faced challenges in providing food, attending school regularly, and lacked basic necessities.

Then, a community-based program for orphans and vulnerable children supported by PWS&D's partner, Mulanje Mission Hospital, intervened. The program supplied essentials like food, offered free medical care and provided school necessities. It also offered vocational skills training for out-of-school youth, including Zinenani and her siblings.

Enrollment in this program alleviated some of Zinenani's burdens, allowing her and her siblings to regain some normalcy. Zinenani expressed gratitude for the program and its donors, recognizing the significant impact on their lives.

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to ensure that children have access to the tools they need for success.



Second Sunday in Advent

Peace

One: In a world too often divided, we gather to embrace the gift of peace.

All: We come with hearts open to reconciliation and understanding.

One: We light the second candle of Advent, a symbol of God's peace in a troubled world.

(Light the candle of peace)

One: May the light of this candle guide us as we seek to fulfill our calling as peacemakers.

All: Holy One, strengthen us by your Spirit to commit ourselves to standing against injustice in our communities and the world. Affirm within us a dedication to foster your peace.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Praying for Peace in Gaza

The war in Gaza has left tens of thousands injured or dead and many more people facing severe hunger. Aid efforts are hindered by ongoing challenges, including limited access and mobility, high costs for goods, and challenges in moving them.



PWS&D is responding through ACT Alliance and Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Local partners have established clinics to provide health services. Since the start of the conflict, churches are being used as distribution points to get ready-to-eat meals to people in need. In southern Gaza, where most people have sought refuge, food assistance is being distributed. Psychological support, especially for children, is being provided in refugee camps.

We echo the words shared by the ACT Alliance, “Gaza’s urgent need for peace and humanitarian support remains a top priority. Let us unite for justice and access to aid for those suffering.”

Join us in praying and advocating for an end to the violence, enabling all to live in safety and dignity.

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to help provide food, shelter and mental health support for people in crisis.

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Third Sunday in Advent

Joy

One: As we prepare for Christ's coming, we remember your calling to be filled with joy.

All: We come knowing that our actions can help alleviate the burdens of others.

One: We light the third candle of Advent, a symbol of joy that uplifts the spirit.

(Light the candle of joy)

One: May the warmth and brightness of this candle encourage us to act with compassion and courage.

All: Holy One, strengthen us by your Spirit to commit ourselves to being people of joy and justice. Fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you, so that we may overflow with hope. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Advocating for Gender Justice

In India, Indral Kumar and Golu Kumar regularly attend group meetings and awareness-raising sessions on gender issues conducted by PWS&D's local partner in their villages.



The boys, who are 13 and 14 years old, come from families that believe housework is to be done only by women and that men who do such work are “low status.”

The classes teach about gender roles and stereotypes, as well as how to bring about gender equality at home. When Indral and Golu attended the class, their eyes were opened to how they had been contributing to gender inequality in their own families.

The boys took the first step to reduce gender inequality at home. They started helping their mother and sister with household work, washing their clothes and dishes, and serving food for themselves.

Golu and Indral's mothers came to meet the project trainers and celebrated the positive changes they had seen in their sons.

This Advent season faithfully respond to Christ's call to advocate for gender justice.



Fourth Sunday in Advent

Love

One: As we prepare for Christ's coming, we remember that Christ modelled love by seeking justice for those on the margins.

All: We come with a desire to love everyone, even when it's hard.

One: We light the fourth candle of Advent, a symbol of God's love, which knows no boundaries.

(Light the candle of love)

One: May the light of this candle inspire us to act towards our neighbours near and far in loving and justice-seeking ways.

All: Holy One, we love because You first loved us. By the power of your Spirit, commit us to love in action in service of our neighbours. Affirm within us a dedication to show your love to the world, in both word and deed. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

“My Life Has Changed”

Santos Amali, a 66-year-old man from Northern Ghana encountered significant challenges due to physical impairment caused by polio.



Living in the Bugri community, he faced severe stigma and hardship. Isolated by his community, Santos was unable to meet his and his family's basic needs.

He was asked to participate in the Community-Based Rehabilitation program of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana. He received training in crop and livestock production, along with improved seeds and livestock breeds. As a result, he was able to become a successful farmer, producing a variety of crops and raising sheep.

“My life has changed, and I owe the Community-based Rehabilitation program and PWS&D a great deal of gratitude for turning my life around through timely interventions. I didn't have enough food and money to live on. Today, the story is different as I have enough from my farming activities,” he shared.

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to ensure everyone is able to live an abundant life.



The Christ Candle

One: We gather to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

All: With each candle we light, we commit ourselves to seeking hope, peace, joy and love.

One: We light the Christ candle to shine into the world, reminding us of the new life promised through Jesus' birth.

(Light the Christ candle)

One: May the warmth and light of Christ comfort all people, bringing courage to the weary and strength to the oppressed.

All: Holy One, by the power of your Spirit, help us to shine your light brightly to the world. Affirm within us the conviction to show hope, peace, joy and love throughout our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Christ is Born!



Hope is possible, even in the face of poverty, injustice and disaster.

The church, through PWS&D, heeds God's call to aid those in need. Together, we are actively shaping a brighter future for our global community, offering assistance in disaster-stricken areas, whether due to conflict or climate extremes, and fostering sustainable pathways out of poverty.

Guided by God's promise of abundant life, we address issues of hunger, poverty, injustice and disaster with compassion. Through our collaborative efforts, we aim to restore human dignity, alleviate suffering and promote community cooperation.

As a reflection of Christ's hope, peace, joy and love, we are striving toward a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us remember our neighbours near and far. Your support is crucial to the success of this transformative work.

This Christmas, help bring hope, peace, joy and love around the world by supporting PWS&D.

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